

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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THE HONORABLE LLOYD A. KARMEIER TO BE SWORN IN TO ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT

SPRINGFIELD -- The Honorable Lloyd A. Karmeier will be sworn in as the newest justice to sit on the Illinois Supreme Court in ceremonies at the Supreme Court Building on Monday, December 6.

Retiring Justice Philip J. Rarick will administer the oath and preside over the ceremonies, which will begin at 3 p.m. in the courtroom of the Supreme Court, located at 200 E. Capitol Street in Springfield.

Justice-Elect Karmeier has been a highly regarded Circuit Court judge for 18 years in Washington County in the 20th Judicial Circuit. In serving on the Supreme Court, he returns to the venue where he began his legal career 40 years ago as a law clerk for the late Illinois Supreme Court Justice Byron O. House.

The newly elected justice will be wearing the robe last worn by Justice House, who had been a name partner in the same Nashville, Illinois law firm where Judge Karmeier began in private practice.

“This will, indeed, be a great privilege and a very great honor for me,” said Judge Karmeier. “I am humbled by the confidence placed in me, while looking forward to the challenges ahead of me.

“I have always believed that integrity, honesty, impartiality and a willingness to work are essential qualities for a judge. I have attempted to bring those qualities to my 18 years as a trial judge and I promise that I will continue to work to the best of my ability to abide by those same principles in my new position on the Supreme Court.

“I strongly admire and respect my new colleagues and I look forward to serving with them on behalf of the people of Illinois to help assure the fair administration of justice for all.”

Chief Justice Mary Ann G. McMorrow welcomed the newly elected justice.

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“On behalf of all the members of the Court, I warmly welcome Judge Karmeier to the Supreme Court and look forward to his service,” said Chief Justice McMorrow. “He has been a fine jurist and we are confident that he will continue to serve the people of the State of Illinois with distinction.”

Justice Karmeier, 64, was born in Okawville, Illinois, and graduated from Okawville High School in 1958.

He received a bachelor of science degree in commerce and law in 1962 and his law degree in 1964 from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana. In the same year, he received his license to practice law in Illinois.

Following his admission to the bar, Judge Karmeier was appointed as a law clerk to Justice House of the Illinois Supreme Court and also joined the law firm of Hohlt, House, DeMoss & Johnson in Nashville, becoming a partner in the firm in 1968.

He also served as a law clerk for U.S. District Court Judge James L. Foreman in 1972-73.

Justice Karmeier was elected and served one term as State’s Attorney of Washington County from 1968 to 1972. In 1986, he was elected as a resident Circuit Court in Washington County, and was retained by voters in 1992 and 1998.

When he was first seeking a judgeship, Justice Karmeier received a rating of “strongly recommended” in the judicial evaluation performed by the Illinois State Bar Association, and was rated extremely well-qualified by an ISBA Judicial Evaluation Committee in 1991. When he sought the Supreme Court seat from the 5th Judicial District this fall, the ISBA rated him “highly qualified.”

Justice Karmeier has been active in professional activities throughout his 40 years in the practice.

He has been a member since 1991 of the influential Illinois Supreme Court Committee on Pattern Jury Instructions in Criminal Cases, and the committee’s chairperson since 2003.

He has been a longtime member of the Washington County Bar Association, the Illinois State Bar Association and the Illinois Judges Association. He has been a member of the Assembly of the ISBA and has been a member and immediate past chairman of the ISBA’s Bench and Bar Section Council.

He met his wife Mary on a blind date while both were attending the University of Illinois. The couple, married in 1965, has two adult daughters and five grandchildren.

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The Fifth Judicial District is composed of 37 counties across the southernmost section of Illinois. Those counties are: Christian, Shelby, Montgomery, Bond, Fayette, Effingham, Jasper, Crawford, Lawrence, Richland, Clay, Wayne, Marion, Jefferson, Clinton, Washington, St. Clair, Madison, Monroe, Randolph, Perry, Franklin, Hamilton, White, Edwards, Wabash, Gallatin, Saline, Williamson, Jackson, Union, Johnson, Pope, Hardin, Alexander, Pulaski and Massac.